

Vibrations

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The Newsletter of the Owasippe Staff Association

Spring 1996

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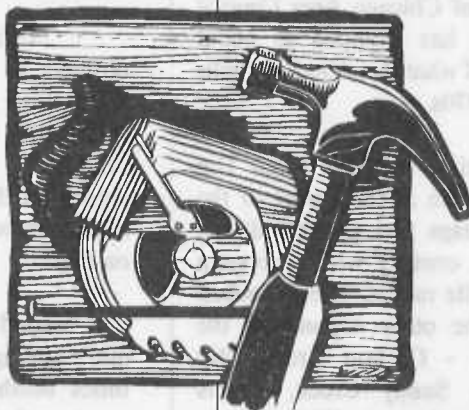
Spring Fix-it Weekends

The OSA will sponsor two Spring Fix-it Weekends at Owasippe this year. The first will be held May 17, 18, & 19th. This is the weekend before Memorial Day and is our traditional work weekend.

The second will be held May 31 - June 1st and 2nd. Cabins will be available in Camp Reneker and Staff Village (limited availability). Meals will be provided for all workers and their families. Reservations for the first weekends can be made by calling Michael Payne at (708) 447-7409 or Art Paull at (312) 445-2016.

Work projects will center on preparing Camp Carlen for it's re-opening this summer. The OSA started

this project at the Fall 1995 Fix-it and work will continue this spring. Once this camp is squared away and in good repair, the OSA will place a sign by the main lodge stating that



this facility was refurbished and repaired by the OSA. All of the former OSA projects at Owasippe will also be brought up to and kept in A-one condition by the OSA and we will publicize that fact. In that manner, when a building or facility at Owasippe is standing tall and looking sharp it will be known that is a direct result of the OSA and the hard work and the hard work of it's members.

There will be challenging

Continued on page 3

18th Annual Meeting & Dinner/Dance

The OSA continued the tradition of an Annual Meeting/Dinner Dance with this year's 18th annual. Coordinated by Diane Posen attendance was well represented by old and new members. Out of state attendees included Scott Weber and Mike Drazba.

A cocktail hour and voting for the 1996 Board of Directors started the evening. Highlights of the election can be found on page 3.

A delicious and nutritious dinner was served family style. Jerry Brown was the emcee for the evening program. He recognized outgoing board members as well as those members who chaired or coordinated events over the past year.

Scott Weber and Denine Anderson were the hosts for the raffle and kept the crowd laughing with their unique presentation.

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Trailside Swimming Holes at Owasippe *by Jim Marshall*

One of the traditional high points of the Boy Scout experience around the world has been the troop camping at its own private beach and swimming hole out in the woods. Over the years Chicagoland troops have been known to fight for the privilege of camping their two weeks at Hiawatha Beach. Old maps show Bass Lake and its alternate name [swimming Hole-in-the-Woods. Also, large numbers of scouts have come to Owasippe to hike out to the other swimming holes at Deer Meadow, Ergang Lake, and Pine Island Lake to the extent that on the same day or evening as many as 400 scouts were camped out along the trail at Bass Lake. Some scout troops found their swimming holes on hikes or canoe trips along the White River at Sischo Rollway, Twin Rollway, One, Two or Three Diamonds or at Fruitvale Landing. These sites are now for the most part no longer open to boy scouts or are developed as public campgrounds. Without a swimming hole at the destination, scouts have had limited enthusiasm for making the trip in the first place.

Of course, scout troops can still

swim in the White River on national forest property but the shore is too distant from dry land, is too damp, the woods are too buggy, and the banks of the river are too hard to reach through the lowlands. Scouts and leaders want a beach from which to enter the water.

It seems that as access to these trailside beaches and swimming holes disappeared that the many boy scouts and their leaders coming to Owasippe disappeared also. Attendance at the camp of Chicago Area Council scouts has dropped to about 17% of what it was in the 1960s and 1970s.

Starting in 1959 I put Big Blue Lake at the center of the trail maps and showed all the hiking country within about a five mile radius. Then I looked into the other streams of the region - Carlton Creek, Big Creek, Sandy Creek, Skeels Creek and so on. With one exception I found all these creeks to be too shallow for swimming holes but they are good for cooling off by wading. The only swimming hole I found was just

downstream from where Carlton Creek meets Mud Creek. I call it Carlton Hole. Over this period of time neither I or anyone else considered North Branch White River because the Girl Scout camp there effectively put this area off limits to Boy Scouts. The Girl Scouts in recent years have sold their property and it is now occupied by several private homes. I found, in May 1995, that there are great swimming holes along North Branch on national forest property that one can enter from dry land. Several of these sites are way back in the woods and not accessible by automobile. There are also nearby campsites on high windy bluffs overlooking the swimming holes. This stream has to become one of the centerpieces of trail hiking and camping.

The only obstacle to scouts using these sites is the lack of a marked trail shown on the trail map. I am working on that.

"Without a swimming hole at the destination, scouts have limited enthusiasm for making the trip in the first place"

A second potential centerpiece of trail hiking and camping is Horseshoe Lake which is about six miles northeast of Big Blue Lake. Scouts can camp on the island that is in the lake owned by the national forest. The lake is not suitable for wading, so the unit would need to transport a canoe to a set in point on the southwest shore of the lake in order to shuttle campers and equipment to the island.

The Maintenance Buzz

Owasippe Property Superintendent Mike Drazba would like to thank everyone who came up to Owasippe to work this past winter. Mike reports that over 60 people volunteered time helping out on various maintenance and construction projects.

Harking back to days of yore, the ranger staff and helpers repaired 260 tents and 400 cots.

That's right, sewing machines were actually used to mend rips & tears in the canvas. Way to go Mike! Another major project was the remodeling of staff village cabin #1. This cabin is the prototype of what will be the complete renovation of staff village. Work is also in progress on getting the water system back on line. The water from the central water supply did not meet state standards in 1995 and the camp had to use bottled water for drinking. This was a major issue that had to be solved

immediately. Mike would like to thank Bill Schaeffer Jr. for all his work on this crucial project.

Mike welcomes anyone with the desire and time available to come on up and lend a hand during the off season. Housing is available and the natives are friendly. Give him a call at (616) 894-4061 to work out the arrangements. The Spring Fix-it Weekends will be the perfect opportunity to come on up to Owasippe and check out what maintenance areas need to be addressed.

The Galloping Grapevine

CHERYL MERRITT (nee Voliva) and her husband John celebrated the arrival of the first child Jessica Rose on February 24, 1996. Jessica checked in at 1:15 AM at a healthy 9lbs, 5oz.

JOANIE BUDZELINI joins the list of OSA members who have migrated out to Colorado. She is employed by the National Park Service as the East District Interpreter in the Curecanti National Recreation Area. Could this lead to the formation of the Colorado Chapter of the OSA?

PAT FOSTER sends his greetings from Haines City Florida. He is enjoying retired life in a more tropical climate these days

RON KULAK reported that he recently completed the 20 mile Blackhawk Trail in Oregon, IL. with his scout troop. In addition to keeping active with his own troop, Ron will again be coordinating the staff development program at Owasisippe this summer along

with other volunteers from the OSA. Ron will also be attending Owasisippe with his troop and will return later in the summer to use Owasisippe as a base camp for hiking a portion of the Great Northern Trail, which runs from Dayton, OH. to Duluth, MN. Look for further information on this high adventure opportunity in the near future.

Congratulations go out to **WALTER & PAT KLEINFELDT** who recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Wally serves on the Owasisippe Task Force and both he and Pat are active supporters of the Boy Scouts and scout religious programs in the Catholic Church.

REV. FRANCIS SCANLON is up and about after recent knee replacement surgery. He is walking with the aid of a cane but promises that will soon be abandoned as his strength improves.

Spring Fix-its *cont'd from pg. 1*

work projects for every level of expertise in the building trades as well as those members whose experience is limited to watching "This Old House". Work projects are scheduled to take place on Saturday. Sunday will be utilized to complete projects not finished on Saturday and to allow members who want to put in additional work time to do so. You are also encouraged to use Sunday to reacquaint yourself with Owasisippe or perhaps introduce your family to her magic for the first time. Hike to the bogs, look for eagles, do some fishing, or see if your old staff cabin is still standing. The possibilities are endless as are the opportunities to come up to Owasisippe and volunteer your time and talents.

The following is a schedule of meals times for the weekend. Please note that all times listed are Michigan Time (Chicago time + 1 hour).

Friday May 17th

6pm - 11pm

Check-in/Cracker-barrel at the Reneker Lodge.

Saturday May 18th

8 - 8:30

Breakfast @ Camp Carlen

12 - 12:30

Lunch @ Camp Carlen

6:00

Dinner @ Food Prep

9:00

Campfire @ Camp Reneker

Join us as we help Owasisippe get ready for the summer camping season. Come meet some old friends and catch the Owasisippe spirit.

TALENT NEEDED

Mike Drazba, Owasisippe Property Superintendent, reminds us that the one for one weekend deal is still valid. For every weekend of volunteer work you put in at Owasisippe, you can get a weekend of "playtime". Mike is especially in need of persons in building mechanical areas; HVAC, refrigeration, etc. Please call Mike at (616) 894-4061 if you can help or need further information.

New Members Elected to Board of Directors

The affairs of the OSA are managed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is composed of nine members, at least six from the Staff Member category and no more than three members from the Associate Member category. All directors must have attained the age of twenty-one years at the

time of their election and cannot be professional scout personnel or full-time employees of the Boy Scouts of America or any of its subsidiary entities.

Four new members were elected to the Board at this year's annual meeting. Diane Posen and Jerry Brown were re-elected to

three year terms.. Pat Troy was elected to fill a three year term and Mario Jau-regui was elected to fill a one year term. Board members attend monthly meetings and serve on various committees that coordinate OSA events.



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Spring Fix-it Information, Annual Meeting/Dinner Dance Highlights, Grapevine News

Board of Directors Meet at Owasppe

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All contributions become the property of the Owasppe Staff Association unless otherwise specified

The Board of Directors gathered at Owasppe for the annual "Director's Weekend" on April 26, 27, and 28. The purpose of the weekend is for the newly elected members to get to know the other members of the board and to be brought up to speed on the workings of the board. The second purpose is to lay out a plan for the next year and to discuss the OSA's future goals. The board members met from 8 to 6 on Saturday, including meeting with OSR management. On Sunday, they inspected projects previously constructed by the OSA to inventory then for needed maintenance and repairs.

The OSA on the NET

The OSA now has an official home page on the Internet. The address is [HTTP://our-world.compuServe.com/homepages/OSA_Rychtanek](http://our-world.compuServe.com/homepages/OSA_Rychtanek)

This homepage features information and news about the OSA and a calendar of events. In the near future it will also carry news about Owasppe, The Chicago Area Council as well as links of interest to OSA members. If you have access to the Internet, either at home through AOL, CompuServe, or Prodigy or at work, please check it out and send me your comments via the homepage or at 73374.1603 @ CompuServe.com

Addresses

The membership committee reports that we need current addresses for the following members:

Ton Crissey

Nicholas Lauerman

Jim Richerson

Scott Srednick